

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Finances of the LDP

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1. The LDP in the eastern zone of Germany now has about 115,000 or 120,000 members, after a loss of at least 30,000 in the last four years.
2. The central headquarters of the party is financed mainly by contributions from the state organizations in Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, since the Thuringian organization is barely able to maintain itself, and those in Mecklenburg, Brandenburg, and East Berlin require financial assistance. The money comes from membership dues and the income from certain enterprises belonging to the party, principally newspapers.
3. The central organ of the party, Der Morgen of Berlin, appearing six times a week with an edition of 75,000 copies, turns over 35,000 marks each month to the party. The other papers make the following contributions: Sächsisches Tageblatt, Dresden, 30,000 marks per month; Thüringische Landeszeitung, Weimar, 25,000 marks. The Norddeutsche Zeitung in Schwerin until recently contributed 3,000 marks a month, but is currently unable to make any payments at all, having encountered financial difficulties because of increasing the number of issues from five to six weekly without increasing the subscription price.
4. In addition to the newspapers the party owns property in Thuringia (cafés, restaurants, apartment houses) which brought in a profit of 30,000 marks from January to June 1952. The party's printing establishment in Berlin also made a small profit.
5. From these funds the party has to support the main office and the 14 "Bezirksverbände". The latter receive some 20,000 to 25,000 marks each per month. The party also supports the party school in Behrendorf on the Scharnitzelsee (which, however, is partly supported by private donations) and state party schools at Halle and Radebeul.
6. The LDP is the only party which receives no subventions from the government or the Soviet Control Commission, in spite of the efforts of the General Secretary, Herbert Thachner, who is supposed to enjoy the confidence of the Russians.

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